

Boston, Feb. 18, 1858.

Dear Sir:

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I received, and read with great satisfaction, your letter approving my article in a late number of "The Independent," concerning the late Bishop Hopkins of Vermont. As the eulogy upon the character and labors of the Bishop appeared in the editorial department of that paper, Mr. Tilton, of course, made himself responsible for it before the public. I was much relieved, therefore, to see his disclaimer of its paternity, in the same number that contained my criticism.

I thank you for taking the pains to send me additional evidence of the real character of the Bishop. His indignant exclamation, in a given instance, "I change, sir! I change! No, sir! no! You could as well uproot the mountains as to drive me from a position I have once assumed," indicates an obstinacy and a self-sufficiency utterly incompatible with a spirit desirous to know the truth, and to be delivered from all error.



My friend, Gerrit Smith, in sending me a letter of thanks, pertinently says that if Bishop Hopkins had doubted the story of Jonah and the whale, he would have been deemed heretical; but, though a thorough advocate of negro slavery as right in itself, and a contemner of the self-evident truths of the Declaration of Independence, it does not prevent his being recognized as "a devout and consistent man of God!"—So of old did they strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.

Thanking you again for your letter, I remain,

Very respectfully yours,  
Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

Robert Beattie.







